



TUFOIC

TASMANIAN U.F.O. INVESTIGATION CENTRE

PO Box 99
North Hobart Tas 7002

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NEWSLETTER

NO. 39

UFO SIGHTINGS - 1983

The last unexplained report to the Centre was way back on July 6th 1982. Eleven months have now passed, giving the Centre an unenviable record for a period with no unidentifieds. Back in 1966 we went from July of that year until February 1967 without an unidentified case, of course we had no media contacts etc. in those days. Since the Centre was founded in 1965 has there been such a quiet period. UFO sightings may well have occurred somewhere in the state but the Centre is still to hear about any.

A series of paranormal events near Lonnovale (Huon Valley) came to the Centre's attention earlier this year with some UFO type events involved. However, at the present time the stimulus for the case does not appear to be due to UFO Phenomena. A strange black shape, round to human-like, has been reported by members of a family, from six separate properties. It usually appears in daytime, whilst at night there have been a prolonged period of sounds, bumps, flashes of light. This has occurred from late in 1982 through into 1983. Other strange events have disappearing dogs, black horses, and a car that seemed to move uphill by itself. Due to the complexity of the events, the number of witnesses, distances etc. it has required time to gather all the information. The details are not yet finalised.

A trio of light cases originated from the Launceston area in May, but it appears as though they could all have mundane explanations.

Even reports of old cases have come to a complete stop, apart from some reports generated by the presence of UFOCON-7 in Hobart, here again nothing of shattering import has been uncovered.

To April of this year the Centre has received 20 reports, all of which have been explained. Last year it was 11 reports with 2 unidentifieds. In 1981 it was 34 investigations with 6 unidentifieds, a far cry from the hectic days of the mid 1970's. A good comparison is 1976, in the first 4 months of that year there were 91 reports with 19 unexplained sightings.

UFO CONFERENCE IN HOBART

The 7th National conference of the Australian Centre For UFO Studies, was held in Hobart, from 12th-14th Feb. 1983.

Four states and the A.C.T. were represented at UFOCON-7, and despite being rather small in number, the delegates were enthusiastic and outspoken; and many matters of great importance to Australian UFology were resolved.

Among the main items to come from this years conference were:

To institute a code of ethics for ACUFOS investigators.

To set up a Nationwide telephone network between each of the state groups, so that sighting information may be passed on quickly.

To investigate methods of Home Computer access to a Central Computer Information File, for each of the state groups.

Many other items were discussed and a number of very interesting papers were presented. Media coverage of the conference far exceeded anything before, with Radio talkback, TV current affairs and many items in the local press.

Ron Jolly, Keith Roberts and Paul Jackson represented TUFOIC.

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Maatsuyker Island, off the southern tip of Tasmania, would be one of the most remote places in Australia. It would also be one of the loneliest, being inhabited by the Lighthouse men and their families only. Not really the kind of place to visit on your next holiday, but visited it has been, many times during the mid 1960's and through the 1970's. This tiny speck of land in the southern ocean has had more than its fair share of UFO sightings over the years. It may not tell you why the Island has such a large number of Unidentifieds, but it will give you the details of the sightings, it is the MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT and it is available from TUFOIC for only \$2.00, which includes return postage.

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ODD SPOT COLUMN

The LONGEST Tasmanian sighting was: 9 HOURS at SOUTHPORT LAGOON, in March 1969.
The MOST WITNESSES to a sighting was: 100 plus at MAYDNA, 26th Feb. 1976.
The TYPICAL Tasmanian sighting, based upon the Tasmanian statistics, would be: on a Saturday in July, between 9PM - 10PM, on a clear night. It would be of a Round shape, and be White in Colour. It would be seen for 10 Minutes duration. There would be 2 Witnesses; a Female between 20-30 years of age, and a Male between 30-40 years old. It should be seen from the Hobart area.

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The AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES has a wide range of Publications on various aspects of the phenomena.

For a complete list of ACUFOS Publications, just send TUFOIC a stamped S.A.E.

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The Australian Centre For UFO Studies is now making available for public subscription, the Reports Digest. 12 issues (Published approx. monthly) subscription costs \$11.00. The Digest carries details on recent sightings sent to ACUFOS by its member organisations around the country, including TUFOIC.

Write to: ACUFOS, P.O. Box 229, Prospect, South Australia, 5082.

ERRATA; Please note that the Edition Number that appeared in the 1983 ANNUAL REPORT Magazine should have been 38, and not 41.

The TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIEDS CATALOGUE - COMPUTER FILE, 1983 Edition is now available from the Centre, at \$3.00 including return postage. The Catalogue contains brief details on every Unidentified report on file. There are now 405 cases on file dated between 1948 to the end of 1982.

For those of you who would like a Computer printout of all sightings with a common factor, such as: Car pace cases, Sound cases, all cases that have a particular Colour in common; or combination of Colours, All sightings on a particular date; or over a period of time. Just about anything is possible, Just give us the details of what you would like extracted. The service will cost you \$1.00 for the first extract and then 50¢ per subsequent extract.

TUFOIC COMPUTER FILE

The Computer used by TUFOIC is a Commodore Vic-20 home computer with Cassette storage, 16 K bytes memory expansion, and dot matrix Printer.

Not only is the Computer used for the Unidentifieds file, it is now being used to Printout and store most of TUFOIC's information sheets, which are then Photocopied for mass distribution to members. The computer allows us to update and amend the information contained in the Catalogue, and on the information sheets very quickly, which assures that we are always up to date.

The Computer is owned and operated by the Liaison officer, Paul Jackson, who would very much like to hear from anyone with ideas on further uses of the computer in UFO research. Paul has just completed a programme that will pinpoint the exact location of an object on a Star Map; given the Date, Time, Altitude and Bearing (Azimuth) of the object. He can also give the Altitude and Azimuth of an object; given its Star Map coordinates. This programme is very useful in finding Planetary positions, which are very useful to a UFOlogist.

Computers are being used by many UFO organisation around the world, and despite being rather modest in size and cost, the TUFOIC computer is a very useful tool to have at our disposal, it keeps UFOlogy in this state on a par with the rest of the world.

For information on the Computer or your ideas on its uses, write to Paul at the TUFOIC box number.

Hundreds see 'lights'

By DON GREENLEES

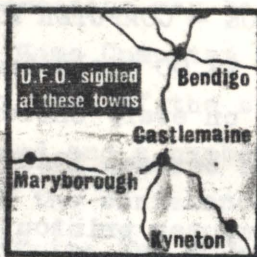
BENDIGO. — Hundreds of people in central Victoria today reported nine brightly-colored UFOs "buzzed" the area overnight.

Reported sightings came in from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Kyne-ton and Bendigo.

The Royal Australian Air Force will investigate the reports.

The RAAF and air traffic control, Tullamarine, were alerted by a Ben-digo radio station, but could not track anything on radar.

They said they were baffled by the sightings.



MELBOURNE
"HERALD"
21/5/83



Most people described the UFOs as cone or cylindrical in shape, with oscillating red, green and white lights.

A RAAF spokesman said the air force would seek confirmation of the sightings before deciding what type of investigation should be made.

In Canberra, an air force spokesman said the unexplained aerial sightings — the air force's term for UFOs — would be logged by the Can-berra-based air force in-telligence group.

Radio announcer, at 3BO, in Bendigo, Mike Evans, said the first re-ported sightings were made to the station about 11 last night.

He said he later saw six objects through the studio window.

dogs and other animals became upset and rest-less after the objects ap-peared.

The first sighting of the objects was made by a man at Kangaroo Flat.

This was followed by the report from the man who said he was being tailed from Long Gully.

The RAAF made a radar scan of the area about 11.40 p.m., but said none of the objects show-ed up.

A second check was made at 2.15 a.m., soon after nine of the objects were reported bunched together, but also proved fruitless.

The RAAF said that if the objects were too high or too low, they would not show up on radar.

Mr Paul Mulqueen, of Bendigo, said he saw eight and possibly nine objects hovering over Kyne-ton about 12.30 a.m.

He said he watched the objects through field glasses for almost an hour.

"After I heard about them, I went out looking," he said.

"I saw the objects as I was heading towards Kyne-ton, and got out and started looking with my field lglasses.

Hovering

"They all seemed to be just hovering there.

"There was a constant rotation, changing color.

"They looked cone-shaped, but they were a hell of a long way up.

"They were easily bigger than a star."

A Weather Bur au spokesman today said the appearance of lights in the sky may have been caused by an atmospheric inversion.

The spokesman said the inversion could have caused car headlights to be refracted in the sky.

He said an atmospheric inversion happened when there was a layer of warm air up to 500 metres from the surface of the earth.

"Normally air gets colder as it rises, but with an inversion, it stays warm," the spokesman said.

But the spokesman said he could not explain why lights would be seen in one area, when the whole state was covered by an inversion.

Cone

"It was like a white cone with red and green lights flashing," he said.

"Someone with a tele-scope in Castlemaine said it was like honeycomb on the bottom.

"I could see them quite distinctly changing colors. They were bright and about twice the size of the brightest star."

He estimated the ob-jects were hovering at about 800 metres.

He said the UFOs would at times move a small dis-tance, disappear and then reappear in another part of the sky.

He said the radio station was flooded with phone calls shortly after the first sightings.

"The phone just never stopped ringing. We have three lines on our talk-back, and six on the switchboard.

"They started ringing about 11 o'clock, and didn't stop till after three."

Mr Evans said the ob-jects disappeared from the sky about 3 a.m.

ne man, who phoned 2DB, claimed he was "tailed" by a UFO from Long Gully, about 5 km from Bendigo, into the town.

"He said it was almost directly above him at about 70 degrees," Mr Evans said.

"He drove flat-out into Bendigo trying to get away from it."

Mr Evans said many people were at first be-wildered and curious about the light, but later became worried.

"It certainly scared the hell out of some people, they didn't sound too good," he said.

People in Bendigo said

Wicat to search for E-T life

By DOUGLAS MOORE

FAMOUS TV astronomer Dr Carl Sagan, president of the Planetary Society, says the society has begun its Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project.

On March 7 Professor Paul Horowitz turned on the "suit-case SETI" receiver at Harvard University's Oakridge radio tel-lescope to begin a dedicated four-year search program.

Professor Horowitz, a physi-cist and electronics expert, has built a sophisticated radio receiver to search for a signal that an alien society might be transmitting to Earth.

A Wicat System 150 — a 68000-based desktop com-puter — has been interfaced to the SETI receiver as over-all system controller. The re-ceiver can monitor 131,000 radio channels simulta-neously.

It is searching for ultra-nar-row band signals as opposed to the broad signals that occur naturally throughout the galaxy.

Professor Horowitz's SETI receiver feeds input to the Wicat computer where the in-formation is processed and the spectra of signals is dis-played on a graphics screen.

All signals in the 0.015 Hz bandwidth stand out as peaks, and all signals in the artificial range are automati-cally stored on the computer's Winchester disc.

"The Wicat has been 100 per cent satisfactory for this project in terms of both perfor-mance and reliability," Profes-sor Horowitz said.

The basic system has been tested at the giant 1000-foot antenna in Arecibo, Puerto Rico where it looked at about 200 nearby sun-like stars, searching for signals at spe-cial or "magic" radio frequencies.

These are frequencies, like TV channels, that would be known to other civilisations because of their fundamental nature. As these channels are distinctive, any signal in them would stand out from the random radio noise of the galaxy.

And some scientists believe alien civilisations might use them to reveal their existence to newer civilisations like ours.

The new receiver is so sensi-tive that it accomplishes in one minute what would have re-quired 100,000 years using the techniques of the first scientific search for intelligent extra-terrestrial radio signals — Project Ozma of the early 1960s.

"This project is a major ad-vance by our planet in the at-tempt to detect other civilisa-tions," said Dr Thomas Mc-Donough, SETI co-ordinator of the Planetary Society.